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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT The Toplika Hydroelectric Plant
at Nevrokop

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[REDACTED] EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Toplika Hydroelectric Plant is located about one kilometer due east of Musomishte (N 41-33, E 23-47), Nevrokop Okoliya, and is fed by the waters of the Toplika River.
2. A canal joining the Mesta River to the Toplika augments the water supply. The canal starts in the Banichan area (N 41-37, E 23-44), goes southeast, passes approximately one kilometer northeast of Nevrokop, then approximately 150-200 meters east of Mitnitsata; it crosses the highway to Dospat, then veers slightly to the south, crosses the highway to Drama, crosses a ravine bending in a south-east direction, goes about 200 meters north of Musomishte, and finally directs itself to the source of the Toplika River, located about 1,300 meters east of the village. The canal is approximately 15 to 16 kilometers long. It is about four meters wide at the top and about two meters wide at the bottom.
3. In the last 30 to 40 meters before the plant, the canal is faced in stone. It widens out at the eastern end, and is bisected by a concrete wall about 10 meters long and 80 centimeters wide, which has two iron-reinforced wooden gates approximately five meters wide with a hand-operated hoist control. The water flows through these into reservoirs with concrete walls and bottoms on either side of the wall.
4. Water from the reservoirs runs through a second pair of gates into a concrete reservoir about 20 meters long, eight meters wide, and four meters deep. This reservoir is emptied through two channels, a system of penstocks (iron pipes) which carry the water to the plant, an irrigation channel, and a waste water overflow into the Toplika River.

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5. The penstocks begin at the bottom of the reservoir and end in the plant which is 50 to 60 meters distant. They are installed at the bottom of an earth channel and are uncovered. A manually-operated gate on the inside of the reservoir controls the flow into the penstock. Water from the turbine outlets follows a concrete canal approximately 50 to 60 meters long and flows into the Toplika River.
6. An irrigation channel, which goes as far as Leski (N 41-32, E 23-46) and Koprivlen (N 41-31, E 23-48), starts on the southeast side of the reservoir. This channel is approximately two meters wide at the top, one meter wide at the bottom, approximately one meter deep, and approximately six kilometers long. The opening is on the same level as the bottom of the reservoir. The water flow is controlled by a manually-operated gate. For the first 15 meters, the channel walls are built of stone. A small concrete bridge crosses the channel where the stone wall ends.
7. The waste water overflow begins at a height of approximately three meters from the bottom of the reservoir. It is built in steps and joins the Toplika River.

The Power Plant

8. The hydroelectric plant is a 2-story T-shaped building with a red tile roof. It has two turbines, but only one is in use because of the limited supply of water.
9. A 2-story building approximately 20 meters by 10 meters in size which serves as quarters for the plant personnel is located about 20 meters west of the plant. An old building used as a warehouse is located northeast of the plant.
10. The entire area surrounding the hydroelectric plant is bare of vegetation, except for a small locust grove south of the sources of the Toplika River and 300 meters northeast of the reservation.
11. The plant area itself comprises about 40 decares. It is enclosed by a 5-strand barbed wire fence set on concrete posts.
12. The entrance to the plant area is about 100 meters north of the plant building, and is connected to the Nevrokop-Drama highway by a specially-built road. A small guard house is located east of the gate. There are two Militia posts, one, usually located in the northern and southern sections.
13. The high tension line connecting the Petrovo plant and the Toplika plant was completed before May 1953, but has not yet been used. Eventually it will serve to augment the current in the Toplika area.
14. The Toplika Hydroelectric Plant provides 220-volt current to all electrified villages in the Nevrokop area, but it falls short of fulfilling the power demand of the area. During the summer, the use of electricity is restricted to threshing machines and other farm equipment. From mid-July to mid-August, current is forbidden in the village of Musomishte. During certain periods of the summer when the Mesta River is low, the waters from the channel are used for irrigation purposes, and electricity is completely cut off.

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Comment: For further information concerning this power plant, see

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